

I claim:

1. A system for opening and closing a lid disposed over an opening of a compartment which houses a swimming pool cover or similar mechanism used in a swimming pool environment, and even where a head of pressure may bear against that lid, said system comprising:

a) remote power pack located at a position remote from the swimming pool in which a lid may be used, for supplying a source of hydraulic power;

b) a hydraulic drive mechanism initially operable source of hydraulic power supplied by said remote power pack; and

c) a mechanical decoupled linkage extending between the hydraulic drive mechanism and the lid enclosing the compartment and allowing for automatic openable as well as manual openable and closeable movement thereof.

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2. A modular lid system for an underwater swimming pool cover or other underwater enclosure, the modular lid comprising:

a) A rigid lid portion having an overall buoyancy such that the lid portion closes the enclosure underwater by force of gravity;

a) A remote power pack for providing a source of hydraulic power to the modular lid, the remote power pack located at a position remote from the swimming pool in which a lid may be, the remote power pack including a hydraulic pump;

b) A hydraulic drive mechanism actuated by the source of remote power pack, the drive mechanism having a predetermined range of movement;

c) A decoupled linkage mechanism extending between the hydraulic drive mechanism and the lid portion for causing limited opening movement thereof, said limited opening movement corresponding to the predetermined range of movement of the hydraulic drive mechanism, wherein the decoupled linkage mechanism disengages from the lid portion during closing movement of the linkage mechanism and allows for manual opening movement of the lid portion beyond the limited opening movement caused by the linkage mechanism for increased access to the underwater enclosure.

3. The modular lid system of Claim 2 in which the rigid lid portion consists of a plurality of modular lid sections coupled together to form the rigid lid portion.

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4. A lid section for a modular lid for an underwater swimming pool cover or other underwater enclosure, the lid section comprising:

an inverted pan having an upper surface, an inner surface, 2 side edges, a leading edge and a pivoting edge;

a torsion structural member disposed adjacent the inner surface and adjacent the pivoting edge

a coupling mechanism located on at least one of the 2 side edges for coupling the lid section to one or more additional lid sections, whereby the coupled lid sections form a rigid, modular lid for allowing openable and closeable movement of the modular lid thereof.

5. The lid section of Claim 4, further comprising:

a buoyancy tank disposed adjacent the inner surface and adjacent the leading edge.

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